

WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM



Pressure Washing

Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Releasing pollutants directly or indirectly into the storm drain system or waterways is a violation of the County's Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO). Below is a list of BMPs that may be applicable to your business. This list is not all inclusive; refer to the WPO for further details. For more information call your inspector or the Stormwater Hotline at (888) 846-0800.

On the Job

- ☐ Establish standard operating procedures for collection and disposal of the wastewater. Use dry methods such as sweeping, vacuuming, raking, and application of absorbents to cleanup pollutants prior to pressure washing.
- ☐ Keep copies of procedures for spill cleanup in each vehicle and at the headquarters.
- ☐ Identify whether hazardous wastes will be generated due to oil or grease on pavement, acid washing, lead-based paint chips, etc.
- ☐ Obtain all necessary permits and authorizations. Obtain permission from the property owner prior to disposing of wastewater on-site.
- ☐ Wastewater shall be disposed to the sanitary sewer at the job site or to a holding tank. Disposal of wastewater contained in holding tanks shall be disposed to the sanitary sewer at the business's company headquarters or at an approved location.
- ☐ Locate an area at the job site where wastewater can be easily contained and identify how wastewater will be collected and disposed.
- ☐ Ensure the necessary equipment is available to retain and/or collect wastewater at the job site (ie: berms, portable containment area, storm drain covers, holding tanks, hoses, vacuum pumps, etc.).
- ☐ Identify where all storm drains are located on and near the project property.
- ☐ Temporarily protect storm drain inlets in the work area and within close proximity.

Please Note:

Wastewater resulting from the cleaning of engines, drive trains, airplanes, landing gear, trains, gas stations, or any type of acid washing must be disposed of as hazardous waste. Contact the County's Hazardous Materials Division for disposal information: (619) 338-2231.

If power washing a surface that was painted prior to 1978, the paint may contain lead. It is your responsibility to determine whether the paint is lead-based prior to paint removal. If paint chips containing lead come off during cleaning, the wastewater will have special disposal requirements. Contact the County of San Diego at (858) 694-2888 for more information regarding lead-based paint removal and disposal requirements.

Wash water and rinse water not containing any of the above mentioned pollutants may be disposed of: to the sanitary sewer with prior approval from the local sewer agency or; to a permeable (dirt, landscaping) surface when the depth to groundwater at the disposal site is greater than or equal to ten feet below ground surface (permeable surface must be able to retain all water); or collect and retain for offsite recycling or disposal.





Materials & Waste Management

- ☐ Maintain all hazardous materials in accordance with the MSDS and all applicable laws and regulations.
- ☐ Store hazardous materials and waste off the ground, under cover, and away from rain.
- ☐ Securely store all materials and equipment in the vehicle during transport.
- ☐ Use secondary containment for storage areas that are likely to create a discharge.
- ☐ Whenever possible, berm and cover all equipment storage areas.
- ☐ Maintain all storage containers in good condition; keep these items securely closed when not in use.
- ☐ Inspect storage areas at least once before the rainy season (November 11-April 30) and quarterly during the rainy season. Document inspection results and retain records for two years.
- ☐ Keep copies of procedures for spill cleanup, materials and equipment necessary for spill response in every vehicle and at the headquarters. Promptly clean up spills and leaks as they occur.
- ☐ Contain all spills on-site. Immediately report any spills of hazardous materials that reach the storm drain system by calling the County's Hazardous Materials Division at (619) 338-2284 or after normal working hours at 9-1-1. Report non-hazardous spills to the Stormwater Hotline (888) 846-0800.

Training

- ☐ Train all operators, employees and workers responsible for activities that could result in unauthorized release on BMPs appropriate to the activities.
- ☐ Training shall include: preventive maintenance, good housekeeping, proper waste disposal, non-stormwater disposal alternatives, equipment maintenance and repair, spill response, recycling, and BMP maintenance.
- ☐ Provide corrective action training whenever a poor practice or illegal disposal practice is discovered.
- ☐ Document all training activities and include training topics, date, and names of the instructor and attendees. Keep training records on-site.
- ☐ Train employees to use spill clean-up materials properly.

The Watershed Protection Ordinance may be found at www.sdcdpw.org/WPO
Additional BMP information may be found at www.projectcleanwater.org/bmp

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